Bud, Paul, Gary, Mary

4/12/70

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

I note the unduly long time in which there has been no response of any nature from you on a number of outstanding requests I have made.

You have taken exception to some of the things I have said about the David Ferrie material and have denied me a copy of the list of documents relating to him that I told you had been made. You have, in fact, denied any such list was made. I told you that at the time Ferrie was in the news I had been told otherwise by Mr. Marion Johnson, who also gave me a list of what had been released relating to Ferrie. I have mislaid that list.

I believe I also told you that news account of the time would confirm what I said.

I have microfilm copies of two stories by Nan Robertson in the New York Times of February 24 and 25, 1967, pages 24 and 56, respectively. I regret they are too small to permit legible copying. However, I assume they are readily available to you. You will find these stories relate the release by the Archives of 16 relevant pages and report the withholding of about 40 others, at FBI order. It is also reported that Mr. Johnson "pulled" this information "together", in response to request from the New Orleans papers.

At your suggestion, I did examine your Ferrie files. There is nothing in them that in any ways suggests what is here reported. It is inevitable that a listing was made. These stories also recount that you had requested the FBI to release what was still classified, again bearing very much on whether or not there was a list. Could you ask the FBI to declassify what you did not specify?

These stories further refer to Secret Service interviews with Ferrie. There are no such reports in what you made available to me. These are directly quoted in the story. If you have such reports, I would like copies of them. I also renew my request for a copy of the list of documents relating to Ferrie and I add a request for the communication to the FBI relating to their declassification and any reply.

I hope it is not again a futility to hope this can be replied to within a reasonable time.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

cc: Mr. Thomas Kelley, Secret Service